

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /092 W

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R 060415Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS DACCA 5582

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR, BG, PK

SUBJECT : NEWS ARTICLE SAYS PAKISTAN RESPONDS NEGATIVELY
ON ASSETS ISSUE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF NEWS STORY DATELINED NEW DELHI
APPEARING ON LOWER HALF FRONT PAGE OF BANGLADESH OBSERVER
OF DECEMBER 5.

BEGIN QUOTE: A RECENT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE
BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN FOR SETTLING THE QUESTION
OF DIVISION OF ASSETS AND THE REPATRIATION OF THE
PAKISTANI NATIONALS HAS EVOKED A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM
ISLAMABAD, IT IS LEARNED, REPORTS BSS (BANGLADESH SANGBAD
SANGSTHA).

THE INITIATIVE IS STATED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY A
THIRD COUNTRY WHICH SOURCES DECLINED TO IDENTIFY.

PAKISTAN'S VIEW, AS STATED BY ISLAMABAD SOURCES IS
THAT SINCE BANGLADESH IS STEADFASTLY MAINTAINING ITS
ORIGINAL POSITION ON THESE QUESTIONS, A DISCUSSION WOULD
NOT BE FRUITFUL AT THIS STAGE. THIS CLEARLY MEANS THAT
PAKISTAN HAS NOT CHANGED ITS UNJUSTIFIED STAND AND
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REFUSED TO HAND OVER ASSETS TO BANGLADESH.

THE STAND TAKEN BY BANGLADESH IS THAT IT HAS RIGHTFUL CLAIMS OVER THE ASSETS OF ERSTWHILE PAKISTAN AND ISLAMABAD SHOULD ACCEPT THIS BASIC POSITION BY MAKING AT LEAST AN INITIAL TOKEN PAYMENT. SECONDLY, PAKISTAN MUST TAKE BACK ITS NATIONALS STRANDED IN BANGLADESH FOR WHICH ISLAMABAD MADE COMMITMENTS IN TWO AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN DELHI.

PAKISTAN, ON THE OTHER HAND HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT BANGLADESH MUST ACCEPT A SHARE OF PAKISTAN'S LIABILITIES, PARTICULARLY OF FOREIGN DEBTS. MR. BHUTTO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PROPOSED FORMATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES. HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE POSITION THAT BANGLADESH IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO ERSTWHILE PAKISTAN'S ASSETS.

ON THE FOREIGN DEBTS QUESTION BANGLADESH HAD ALREADY REACHED AGREEMENTS WITH DONOR COUNTRIES FOR SERVICING LOANS AND CREDITS GIVEN FOR PROJECTS VISIBLY LOCATED IN BANGLADESH. END QUOTE.
BOSTER

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